

RSPB Langford Lowfields – November 2019

Important Information: Floods and rising water levels on the reserve

This month has seen a considerable amount of rainfall and the impact of this is that whilst the river hasn't come over the flood bank yet, Slough Dyke (which follows the southern and western boundaries of the reserve) is backing up and cascading over into Phase 3. We still can't release water into the river (because it's so high) and so levels on site have now got to the point where not only the pond dipping platform and boardwalk are submerged, but all the low spots on the trail around Phase 1 are underwater and have been closed. This means that the only walk now available is from the Beach Hut to the 360 Viewing Platform (aka Corfe Castle) and back again. You can no longer do a loop around Phase 1. To get to Corfe Castle a diversion has been put in place from the Beach Hut to keep people away from the water. Slough Dyke has also flooded large sections of the perimeter that circle the site.

All the non-public areas are also flooded with the various parts of the reserve joining together to form one big body of water. The reed is still sticking out the water though, so keep an eye out for Barry the Bittern clinging valiantly to the top of the tallest reed stem!

If you are planning a visit, please check our Twitter or blog as it is possible that we will close all or large sections of the reserve if the water levels continue to rise (@rspblangford); our blog (www.rspb.org.uk/community/placestovisit/langfordlowfields/blog); or Facebook (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/RSPBNottinghamshireDerbyshire/>).

Sightings and volunteer work

Sightings since our last newsletter include: bearded tits, goldeneye, large starling murmuration, stonechat, bittern, pink footed geese, great white egret, green sandpiper, marsh harrier and snipe.



Male Stonechat © Stuart Carlton, 2019

The volunteers have continued to do a lot of work creating ideal habitat for grasshopper warblers this month.

Join us for our next event at Langford

There are a few spaces left on our Winter Wonderland Guided Walk on Saturday 7 December 2019 1.00-3.00 pm at Langford. Joe Harris, Site Manager, will lead the walk around the reserve talking about the site and its work, and seeing nature along the way. Booking is essential on 01636 893611 or Langford.Beckingham@RSPB.org.uk. Meet at Cottage Lane Car Park. Payment to be made on the day as follows:

Member Adult £8.00 / Child £4.00

Non Member Adult £10.00 / Child £5.00